

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA): Research Initiation Grant (RIG)

1. Funding Opportunity Description

The Mississippi IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (MS-INBRE) invites faculty with research interests in the biomedical sciences at Predominately Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs) to apply to the Research Initiation Grant (RIG) of the MS-INBRE Developmental Research Project Program. This FOA is intended to strengthen the science education at the PUIs by providing funding for biomedical research performed by faculty and students. This **1-year funding** requires the involvement of classroom-based activities and is intended to expose as many students as possible in the research enterprise. Applicants must show evidence of institutional support with letters indicating agreement of administrators to introduce new laboratory activities into course offerings and sufficient facilities to conduct research activity.

2. Eligibility

Eligible Applicants include full-time permanent faculty members with rank of Assistant Professor or higher at the PUIs in Mississippi. Investigators from the Mississippi research intensive universities (USM, MSU, JSU, UM and UMMC) are not eligible to apply.

3. Amounts

Total allowable direct costs: \$20,000/year for 1 year

Indirect costs (F&A) are in addition to the allowable direct costs.

4. Key Dates

Proposals are received at any time.

Funding Period: **September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026**

5. Content and Form of Pre-Proposal Submission

To best serve partner institutes and other researchers in Mississippi, Mississippi INBRE is requiring applicants provide a pre-proposal to initiate submission of Research Initiation Grants. The information will be used to assess eligibility and arrange consultation with Mississippi INBRE personnel to help prospective awardees best leverage resources and expertise available through the network. Two documents are required to complete a pre-proposal.

Upload 1: NIH Biosketches of the Investigator and other Significant Contributors

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/non-fellowship-biographical-sketch-format>

Upload 2: Specific Aims of the Project (one-page limit)

<https://www.biosciencewriters.com/NIH-Grant-Applications-The-Anatomy-of-a-Specific-Aims-Page.aspx>

6. Content and Form of Full Proposal Submission

A. **AOR Letter** - Attach a letter signed by your Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) stating they have reviewed and approved the proposal as submitted and approve any institutional commitment. **AOR approval is required.**

B. NIH Research & Related Budget Form

Please be sure to attach budget justification to Section L. Budget justification instructions: Justify in detail all proposed expenses. All items requested in the budget are to be used during the award period. Use continuation pages as needed.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/forms-g/general/g.300-r&r-budget-form.htm>

C. **NIH Biographical Sketches** - For the Investigator and other Significant Contributors. NIH Grant Forms: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms.htm>

D. **Research Plan** (6-page limit, not including the Project Narrative, Project Summary, Specific Aims page and the Literature cited/References section. Please be sure to limit your Project Summary/Abstract to 30 lines of text.)

i. Project Narrative – Describe how, in the short or long term, the research would contribute to: the fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems, and/or the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability (limit to 2-3 sentences).

ii. Project Summary/Abstract (limited to 30 lines of text)

iii. Specific Aims (limit 1 page). The proposal will be organized around two specific aims. The first aim will focus on a traditional activity to be conducted in the laboratory space of the submitting faculty, while the second will describe experiments conducted in a classroom setting.

<https://www.biosciencewriters.com/NIH-Grant-Applications-The-Anatomy-of-a-Specific-Aims-Page.aspx>

iv. Research Strategy (6-page limit)

a. Significance

b. Innovation (limit the Significance and Innovation to 1 single page for both sections)

c. Approach

d. Subsections are highly recommended for each Specific Aim.

- Rationale, Hypothesis and Overall Strategy
- Experimental Design, Methods, Rigor, and Reproducibility
- Expected Results and Outcomes
- Potential Problems, Pitfalls and Alternative Strategies

e. Involvement of Undergraduate Student(s)

f. Course evaluation plan to assess effectiveness in improving student outcomes.

v. Bibliography/Literature cited/References section

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-and-write/write-your-application.htm>

E. Facilities and Other Resources

i. Identify the facilities to be used (laboratory, clinical, animal, computer, office, other as needed for the project).

ii. Describe the scientific environment of your institution and how it will contribute to the probability of success of your project (instrumentation, institutional support, physical resources).

iii. Describe any special facilities used for working with biohazards or other potentially dangerous substances.

F. Major Equipment

i. List major items of equipment already available for your project. Check if your institution has a catalog of core facilities to help you find equipment. Where appropriate, identify the equipment's location and pertinent capabilities.

G. Additional Sections

i. Animal and Human Research Protection (if applicable)

ii. Select Agent and Biohazard (if applicable)

iii. Copy of IRB or IACUC Letter of Approval (if applicable)

H. Resource Sharing Plan

- i. <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/resource-sharing-plan>

I. Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources

- i. <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2016/01/29/authentication-of-key-biological-andor-chemical-resources-in-nih-grant-applications/> (if applicable)

J. Supporting Materials

- i. Letter(s) of Collaboration/Support (if applicable)

K. NIH Other Support Page (list all your current and pending research support using the NIH format)

L. Data Management and Sharing Plan

- i. <https://sharing.nih.gov/data-management-and-sharing-policy/planning-and-budgeting-for-data-management-and-sharing>